

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION V

DATE: 13 APR 1990

SUBJECT: USS Lead Refinery/East Chicgo, Indiana

FROM: Charles Gebien, On-Scene Coordinator *Ch. Gebien*
Emergency Response Section II
Waste Management Division

TO: Jack Barnette, Chief
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Waste Management Division

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APR 17 1990
TECHNICAL SUPPORT
SECTION

RECOMMENDATIONS

In response to David A. Ullrich's December 15, 1989 referral of the captioned site for CERCLA Action, I reviewed RCRA, EERB, and ESD File information and visited the site with OSC Bill Simes on December 29, 1989. Bill and I agree that Emergency Action is not warranted at this time. USS Lead Refinery and IDEM are near completion of an agreed order for removal of hazardous waste piles from the facility. USS Lead Refinery provides a part time guard at the site. I recommend that EERB-ERS;

- 1) Monitor waste removal activities and security provisions at the site to determine if emergency action is warranted after USS Lead Refinery's clean-up efforts are exhausted.
- 2) Utilize TAT assistance during the spring of 1990 to collect sediment samples from on-site and off-site waterways to determine the extent of lead migration from lead waste piles and/or lead contaminated soils throughout the site to the Grand Calumet River. The TAT proposed this sediment sampling in a February 1986 site assessment.

FILE REVIEW

USS Lead Refinery was originally referred to EERB-EERB-ERS by the Indiana State Board of Health (ISBH) in November 1985. The TAT visited the site on November 25, 1985 with OSC Bill Simes and completed a site assessment in February 1986. The assessment report concluded that the site presented a potential threat as a result of the lead piles. The assessment questioned severity of the threat because; 1) The site was no longer in operation, 2) The lead dust pile was moved inside of a building, and 3) Site access was restricted. The assessment report recommended that a sediment sampling program be conducted to determine the extent of wind blown soil contamination resulting from the sites operations.

On December 16, 1986 ISBH collected twenty soil samples from off-site and on-site locations. All off-site samples were non-EP Toxic for lead.

SITE INSPECTION

On December 29, 1989, OSC Bill Simes and I visited the site and met with Mr. Rich Liscum of USS lead (phone #219-397-1012). Mr. Liscum indicated the USS Lead Refinery ceased operations on December 10, 1985 and shipped lead product from the facility until May 2, 1989. The facility lost water, electrical, and natural gas connections in May 1987. Mr. Liscum recently distributed employee severance paychecks and believes that the facility will not resume operations. Unauthorized scavenging has resulted in theft of most salvageable equipment and damage to the site's buildings. Mr. Liscum acts as the facility's part-time security guard and escorted OSC, Bill Simes and I during our visit. Although the site was snow covered, we confirmed the presence of the outdoor calcium sulfate pile, the outdoor Slag disposal area, and indoor lead dust pile as identified in the 1986 Site Assessment Report.

CC: Robert Bowden, (5HS-12)
William Simes, (5HS-12)
Eileen Helmer (5HR)